

12/22/99

~~2/2/99~~
ATION

Express Mail Label No.

EL267110140US

Date: December 22, 1999

First Named Inventor (or Application Identifier):
Dale F. McIntyre, et al

Enclosed are:

1. ☒ Specification
2. ☐ 17 Sheet(s) of drawing(s)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97.
4. Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney:
- 4a. ☒ New
- 4b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d) (for continuation/divisional with Box 11 completed))
5. ☐ Incorporation by Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☒ Assignment of the invention to Eastman Kodak Company
7. ☐ Certified copy of a priority
8. ☐ document
Associate Power of Attorney
9. ☐ Deletion of Inventor(s).
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

10. ☐ If a 111A application prior to examination of the above-identified application, amend the specification at Page 1, after the title, by inserting the following:
--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION
Reference is made to and priority claimed from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. , filed , entitled .

If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

11. ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____
12. ☒ Please address all written communications to Thomas H. Close, Patent Legal Staff,
Eastman Kodak Company, 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650-2201.
Please Direct all telephone calls to Thomas H. Close at (716) 722-2396.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

FOR:		NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE					\$ 760
TOTAL CLAIMS		32 - 20 =	12	x 18 =	\$ 216
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS		16 - 3 =	13	x 78 =	\$ 1014
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED				+ 260	\$0
				TOTAL	\$ 1990

- ☒ Please charge my Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225 in the amount of \$ 1990.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or credit any overpayment to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Thomas H. Close/cjm
Telephone: (716) 722-2396
Facsimile: (716) 477-4646

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 27,428

Jc617 U.S. PRO
 09/470814
 12/22/99

Express Mail Label No. EL267110140US

Date: December 22, 1999

Docket 80353THC

Form PTO 1595
1-31-92

MODIFIED 2-15-93

RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

PATENTS ONLY

Tab settings ® ® ®

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Assignor # 1: Dale F. McIntyre
Assignor # 2: Joseph A. Manico
Assignor # 3: Andrew T. Cooper

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: Eastman Kodak Company City: Rochester State: NY Zip: 14650-2201

3. Nature of Conveyance: ☒ Assignment ☐ Other:

Assignment Execution Date:

Assignor # 1: 21 December 1999
Assignor # 2: 21 December 1999
Assignor # 3: 21 December 1999

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s): Application No. To Be Assigned

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is the same as the execution date of the Assignment, unless stated as follows:

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Thomas H. Close Address: Eastman Kodak Company, Patent Legal Staff
City: Rochester State: NY Zip: 14650-2201

6. The total number of applications and patents involved is one (1) unless stated as follows:

7. Total fee (37 CFR 1.21h): \$ ☐ Enclosed ☒ Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Eastman Kodak Company Deposit account number: 05-0225

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Deborah J. Strassner

Name of Person Signing

Signature

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet:

3

ORIGINAL

Application Based on

Docket **80353THC**

Inventors: Dale F. McIntyre, Joseph A. Manico and Andrew T. Cooper

**METHOD OF PERMITTING GROUP ACCESS TO
ELECTRONICALLY STORED IMAGES AND TRANSACTION
CARD USED IN THE METHOD**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
ATTN: BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D. C. 20231

Express Mail Label No.: EL267110140US

Date: December 22, 1999

00470344-12209
662227-47804460

**METHOD OF PERMITTING GROUP ACCESS TO ELECTRONICALLY
STORED IMAGES AND TRANSACTION CARD USED IN THE METHOD**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to digital image generation, storage and retrieval, and more particularly to a method for enabling a group of individuals to generate and share a collection of digital images.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Photographic services including image digitization, digital image storage and network access to digital image files and distribution of digital image files are currently provided by on-line photocenters such as the KODAK PhotoNet™ Online service available on the Internet at <http://kodak.photonet.com>. To use this system, the photographer checks a box on a photofinishing order
15 envelope indicating she would like to receive this service. The photofinisher processes the film, scans the film to produce digital images, and uploads the digital images to the on-line photocenter via an FTP (file transfer protocol) site through an Internet server. The on-line photocenter receives the digital images and stores them as image files in a mass storage device such as a Sun ultra 250
20 mass storage hard drive connected to an Internet server.

 The on-line photocenter assigns the image file a roll ID number, and an OwnerKey which functions as a location indicator and password so that the photographer can access the image file over the Internet, and sends the roll ID number and OwnerKey back to the photofinisher. The photofinisher prints a
25 receipt listing the roll ID number, and an OwnerKey and returns the receipt along with the printed photographs to the photographer.

 The photographer then access the on-line photocenter from an Internet capable personal computer , supplying the on-line photocenter with her e-mail address, personal password, roll ID number and OwnerKey. The on-line
30 photocenter then allows her access to the stored images, from which she can download the images to the personal computer, authorize other people's access to the digital images by providing their e-mail addresses to the on-line photocenter,

09473344 12259
552327 4733440

order reprints, specialty products, digitally manipulate images, and perform other functions. It will be readily appreciated that the entry of so many codes and addresses complicates the use of the services provided by the on-line photocenter.

Special events such as family reunions weddings and amateur sporting events (e.g. little league) typically have multiple photographers with common interests capturing photographs at the event. Current methods of sharing the images captured at the event include making multiple prints from each roll of exposed film and using either personal contact or the postal system to share the pictures. If an on-line photocenter is used to share the images, individual users need to obtain each others e-mail addresses and then access the on-line photocenter and authorize each other's access to the image files. Each user at the event needs to perform this procedure and all the images taken at the event would be dispersed over multiple locations at the on-line photocenter. An additional problem occurs when a photographer does not wish to share all of the images captured on a roll of film, for example because some of the images are from another event, are personal, or are inappropriate for sharing.

There is an additional need for photographers who use digital cameras to participate in the same system. Currently in the on-line photocenters, a user can purchase on-line storage space for the equivalent of a roll of film and then upload digital images from their own computer. However, these images are still dispersed and subject to the problems of connecting groups of users that have experienced a common event.

Furthermore, consumer photographers who are not connected to the Internet can't participate within the existing on-line photocenter structure. There is a need to provide these unconnected users with a way to share and print the pictures of the event they participated in without causing them to sit with a connected user and manually keep track of products purchased and the expenses incurred.

There is a need therefore for an improved method to conveniently enable a group of photographers to generate and share a file of digital images on the Internet.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method for coordinating the image capture by multiple photographers at an event so that all of the images are available at a single Internet location. It is a further object to
5 provide individual users with a secure and simple method of accessing the Internet location that does not require sharing of e-mail addresses, thereby avoiding transcription errors and maintaining a certain amount of privacy. It is a still further object to enable individual photographers to edit and approve the access to the group to images captured at the event. It is a still further object to provide a
10 simple automatic method for photofinishers to implement such a system.

These and other objects are achieved according to the present invention by providing a method of storing and viewing a collection of digital images includes the steps of: providing a plurality of users with a unique user ID associated with a URL identifying a network photoservice provider; providing
15 each one of the plurality of users with a separate password to the unique user ID; at least one of the plurality of users transferring a set of digital images to the unique user ID employing their separate passwords; and viewing the images located at the unique user ID using the separate password.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a transaction card according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows the transaction card of Fig. 1 with the adhesive label removed to reveal the user ID number and password, the adhesive label shown applied to a film cartridge and a one time use camera;

Fig. 3 shows a front and back view of an alternative embodiment of the transaction card of the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows a display rack having sealed packs containing sets of preprinted transaction cards;

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing a network system useful in
30 performing the method of the present invention;

Fig. 6a is a flow chart showing the steps in the method that an event host completes according to the present invention;

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram showing a system for practicing an alternative embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 18 shows a transaction card according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a transaction card 10 is shown. Printed on one side of transaction card 10 is a Universal Resource Locator (URL) 12, a user ID 14, and instructions 16. Removably adhered to the transaction card 10 is an adhesive label 18 which includes a bar code 20 for encoding the URL 12, user ID 14, and a password 22. Adhesive label 18 obscures a human readable version of password 22 until the adhesive label 18 is removed for attachment to a film cartridge 24 or a one time use camera 26. It should be apparent to one skilled in the art that instructions 16 could be printed on a protective translucent plastic overwrap (not shown) for each card and will be considered within the scope of the invention.

In Fig. 3, an alternative embodiment of transaction card 10 is shown with magnetic stripe 28 wherein URL 12, user ID 14 and password 22 are encoded, for example on the back of the card. Instructions 16, user ID 14 and URL 12 are printed on the front of transaction card 10 in human readable form. In this embodiment, the information on magnetic stripe 28 causes adhesive label 18 to be printed for application on the film cartridge 24 or one time use camera 26.

A further embodiment using the structure of Fig. 3 is also possible where the above-referenced information on magnetic stripe 28 is scanned at a retail terminal such as a Kodak Picture Center™ and the adhesive label 18 is printed by a printer 208 associated with the retail terminal 206. The printed adhesive label 18 is then applied to photoprocessing envelope 210 which will be discussed further with respect to Fig. 17 below.

According to a still further embodiment, the transaction card 10 may be provided by an event sponsor, such as a NASCAR or NBA event, and include printed advertising on the face of the transaction card 10. The URL 12 may contain event specific digital images provided by the sponsor for viewing and

use by event participants. It is anticipated that the event sponsors would provide the cards to event participants for free or as a premium for admission to the event. The URL12 contains linkage to the sponsors web site. All of the images that are submitted for photoprocessing with the label 18 will be viewable by all of the participants. Alternatively, the sponsor may make all of the images available for viewing by the general public via the sponsors web site.

Continuing on with Fig. 4, a package 30 of transaction cards 10 is shown as part of display rack 32. Each package 30 of transaction cards 10 contains multiple transaction cards 10 each transaction card 10 within the package 30 of transaction cards 10 containing the same user ID 14 but distinct passwords 22. After purchasing the package 30 of transaction cards 10, the event host (purchaser of the package 30) distributes the transaction cards 10 to event participants.

Referring to Fig. 5, a network system useful in performing the method of the present invention will be described. A film cartridge 24 or a one-time use camera 26 having an adhesive label 18 is delivered to a photofinisher 34. The photofinisher includes a film preparation station 36, a film processor 38, a film scanner 40, a label scanner 42, a computer 44 for controlling the photofinishing operation, a memory 46 for storing digital images and user ID information and a web server 48.

The adhesive label 18 is scanned in the label scanner 42, and the film is developed in the film processor 38 and scanned in film scanner 40 to produce digital images from the images recorded on the film. The digital images are stored in memory 46 along with the associated user ID 14 information. The contents of memory 46 are made available on the Internet 50 via web server 48.

The card manufacturer 52 that made the transaction cards 10 includes a database 54 connected to a web server 56 by a computer 58. The database 54 contains a list of user ID numbers 14 and associated passwords 22 (see Fig. 2).

A networked photoservice provider 60 includes a web server 62, and a computer 64, which contains a customer database 66 that points to images stored in an image database 68. Digital images and associated customer ID

information are downloaded from the memory 46 in the photofinisher 34 to the customer and image databases 66 and 68 respectively in the network photoservice provider 60.

When a user desires to access digital images that were stored by himself or others at the event, he employs user workstation 70 via a web server 72 at an Internet service provider 74 using the user ID 14 and password 22 to address the web server 62 and gain access through the customer database 66 using the password 22 to access the images stored on database 68.

A fulfillment center 76 includes a web server 78, a job queue memory buffer 80 and a digital output device 82, such as an ink jet printer, CD writer, floppy disc writer, digital photographic printer, etc. If the customer desires a print 84, an article such as a CD 86, prints, poster prints, t-shirts, CD's, floppy discs, album pages, greeting cards, digital file downloading, extended image storage, mugs, posting to a web page, postage stamps, masks, sticker prints, and trading cards, bearing the image (not shown), the customer can order the print or article via the Internet using a digital order form (not shown) provided by the network photoservice provider 60. The network photoservice provider 60 receives the order and forwards it via the Internet 50 to the fulfillment center 76. The fulfillment center 76, retrieves the requested digital images from the network photoservice provider 60, produces the ordered print or article and sends it to an address supplied by the customer.

Optionally, a professional photo studio 88 having a studio digital image work station 90 connected to professional film scanner 92, such as a Kodak RFS2035 Professional film scanner, a high resolution professional digital image database 94 is connected to the network photoservice provider 60 and image fulfillment center 76. A photographer from the professional studio 88 may participate in the event and capture images using conventional or electronic cameras (not shown). The images captured by the professional are stored in database 94. If the images are captured on conventional film, they are developed and scanned by scanner 92. If they are captured on an electronic camera, they are downloaded to database 94 in a known manner.

Referring to Figs. 6a-b, the operation of the system according to the present invention will now be described. As shown in Fig. 6a, the event host purchases (96) a package 30 of transaction cards 10. The host hands out the cards (98) to the photographers at the event. At some point before or after the event, the event host registers (100) over the Internet 50 with the network photo service provider 60 by filling out a registration form provided on-line by the network photoservice provider 60.

Turning to Fig. 6b, a photographer who received a transaction card 10 at the event, applies (102) the adhesive label 18 to his film 24 or one time use camera 26, and drops off (104) the film 24 or one time use camera 26 at the photofinisher 34. The photofinisher 34 inputs the URL 12 and user ID 14 into the photofinishing system by scanning the bar code 20 from the adhesive label 18. Alternatively, the URL 12 and user ID 14 can be carried on the transaction card 10 by a magnetic stripe 28 as shown in Fig. 3, which is scanned by a magnetic card reader 204 (See Fig. 17) located at a film drop off location. An example of a film drop off location which integrates a retail terminal 206 with a magnetic card reader 204 is the Kodak Picture center. A label is printed having the URL 12 and the user ID 14 and the label is attached to a photofinishing envelope 210.

After the film has been developed, the photographer picks up (106) the prints and processed film. By the time the prints are ready, the photographer can connect (108) to the network photoservice provider 60 using the user ID 14 and password 22 on the transaction card 10 to select the images that are to be shared with the other photographers at the event. The photographer reviews the images displayed on the monitor of user workstation 70 and indicates the images that he desires to share with the others, for example, by checking a box associated with each image. Alternatively, he could check a single box indicating that he wishes to share all of the images.

After the images that will be shared have been selected by the participants, they can view each others selected digital images (110), (both his and others at the event), that were captured at the event, and select images for printing (112) and order reprints and other articles. In the event that a user fails to designate digital images for access to all cardholders within a predetermined

period of time, access may be granted by the network photoservice provider 60 to all cardholders to all digital images stored by the user. Taking action after a predetermined time period is function that can be provided by computer 64 of the network photoservice provider 60 as is known the computer art.

5 Alternatively, the photographer can contact the network photoservice provider 60 prior to receiving his prints to see if the images are available. The photographer can also employ his user ID 14 and password 22 to track the progress of his photofinishing order, since the link to the user ID 14 is established at the photofinisher 34 and can be made available to the network photo
10 service provider 60 as soon as the adhesive label 18 is scanned. All other services, such as retrieving a low resolution digital image that are normally provided by network photoservice providers 60 are also available to the photographer with respect to all of the images taken at the event.

 Referring to Fig. 7, the steps in the method that a photofinisher 34
15 completes according to the present invention will be described. The photofinisher 34 associates a twin check number (114) with the user ID 14 that was scanned from the adhesive label 18 attached to film cartridge 24 or the magnetic stripe 28 on the transaction card 10. The twin check, which is a sequential number, is attached (116) to the film strip and the photofinishing envelope 210. The film is
20 then processed (118), scanned (120), and the twin check code is read and the user ID 14 is associated (122) with the digital image files. The digital image files and associated user ID 14 are temporarily stored (124) in memory 46 and subsequently transferred (126) to the image database 68 at the network photoservice provider 60.

25 Referring to Fig. 8, the steps in the method of uploading images from a professional image database 94 containing images of an event to a consumer database built according to the present invention will be described. A professional photographer, who has attended the event and received a transaction card 10 or copied the URL 12 from a transaction card 10, establishes a remote
30 connection (128) to the network service provider 60. The network photoservice provider 60 requests a professional identification (Pro ID) (130) indicating that the professional photographer has been previously associated with the network

photoservice provider 60. If the professional does not have a Pro ID, the network service provider 60 registers (132) the professional photographer. Otherwise, the professional enters his Pro ID (134), enters the event URL 12 (136) from the transaction card 10, and uploads (138) low resolution image files from .

5 professional image database 94 for display in the area of the URL 12 reserved for digital images selected to be shared. After completing the upload process (138), the professional photographer disconnects (140) from the network photoservice provider 60.

It should be noted that the effect of registration (132) permits the
10 definition of the electronic funds transfer agreement for distribution of proceeds from the sale or use of images uploaded and originating from the professional image database 94. In a manner well understood in the electronic commerce art, brokerage fees are a form of revenue sharing where the network photoservice provider 60 collects a percentage of the revenue associated with a user's selection
15 of a professional image to print for example before distributing the balance of the incurred fee to the professional photographer who has registered with the network photoservice provider 60.

Furthermore, it will be understood that fulfillment center 76 will access the URL of the professional image database 94 to download the appropriate
20 high resolution digital image necessary for order fulfillment correlating to the user selected low resolution image resident at the network photoservice provider 60. It should be obvious to one skilled in the art that an event participant seeking fulfillment of an order including both consumer shared images and images from the professional image database 94 conducts only one distinct electronic
25 transaction in the method of Fig. 8.

Referring to Fig. 9, the steps in an alternative method of connecting a professional image database 94 containing images for sale of an event to a consumer database built according to the present invention will be described. A professional photographer who has attended the event and received a transaction
30 card 10 or copied the URL 12 from a transaction card 10, establishes a remote connection (142) to the network service provider 60. The network service provider 60 requests a Pro ID (144) indicating that the professional photographer

has been previously associated with the network photoservice provider 60. If the professional does not have a Pro ID, the network service provider 60 registers (146) the professional photographer. Otherwise, the professional enters his Pro ID (148), enters the event URL 12 (150) from the transaction card, and enters (152) the URL for his professional image database 94 before disconnecting (154) from network photoservice provider 60.

It should be noted that the effect of registration permits sharing of revenue associated with the sale or use of professional images from the professional image database 94. In operation, a user connecting with user workstation 70 to network photoservice provider 60 via Internet service provider 74 and Internet 50 will see an active link from the registered professional photographer which will transfer the user to the URL of the professional image database 94. In a manner well understood in the electronic commerce art, sites (URLs) that transfer users who subsequently purchase items at URL of the professional image database 94 earn a commission on the revenue generated by the transferred user. In this case, the professional photographer incurs the responsibility to track the path of users purchasing images to reimburse the transferring site such as the network photoservice provider 60. The user also completes a distinct electronic transaction with the professional photographer in addition to any electronic transaction conducted with the network photoservice provider.

Referring to Fig. 10, a block diagram shows the connection of a user with an electronic camera 156 to a network photoservice provider 60 for sharing images of event captured electronically according to the present invention. It will be understood that electronic camera 156 will include those cameras that at least electronically capture an image of a scene without the use of chemical amplification of incident light as achieved by silver halide based films.

The connection of the electronic camera 156 to user workstation 70 is well known in the art. For example, the DC210 camera manufactured by the Eastman Kodak Co. allows the user to extract a removable memory card (not shown) for insertion into user workstation 70. Alternatively, cables for transferring serial data streams in an RS-232 fashion between electronic cameras 156 and user workstation 70 are also well known. This established protocol is also

well know with wireless serial transmissions involving the use of infrared light or radio frequencies (RF).

It will be understood that user workstation 70 can include a scanner (not shown) of the flatbed type and/or the film type where the user can provide
5 digital image files without the need of photofinisher 34. Furthermore, providing these digital images files from devices that readily convert analog images to digital image files are considered within the scope of this invention.

Continuing on with Fig. 10, a user connects to the network
photoservice provider 60 through ISP 74 and Internet 50 and after establishing a
10 connection, enters the user ID 14 and password 22 from transaction card 10. Following validation of the user ID 14 and password 22, digital image files transferred to user workstation 70 are uploaded to the shared image area of URL12 of network photoservice provider 60. Network photoservice provider 60 must then create a low resolution file for viewing and selecting within the shared
15 image area of URL 12. Since uploading is a selection process, there is no need for further involvement of a user supplying digital image files directly from a user workstation 70. Such a user begins creating an order from images available in the shared image area of URL 12 immediately after uploading his digital image files.

Referring now to Fig. 11, a flow chart shows the steps in the
20 method of uploading images from a user workstation 70 to a network photo service provider hosting images from an event according to the present invention. A user wishing to upload images begins by establishing a remote connection (158) to the network service provider 60. The network photoservice provider 60 requests a user ID 14 and password 22 to validate the connection to the event
25 which the user complies with (160). The user is then prompted (162) to see if the images to be uploaded are from a scanner or an electronic camera. If the images to be uploaded are from a scanner the user is prompted (166) to identify and upload the image. Upon completion of the upload, the user is again prompted (170) if there is another image to upload and the sequence begins again until all
30 images have been uploaded successfully. When the image is not sourced from a scanner, the system prompts (164) the user to select the camera model used to capture the image with. This allows the system to anticipate the file format to be

uploaded and make any adjustments to the image for presenting in the shared image area of URL12. Once the camera has been selected, the upload process begins (168) by identifying and uploading a specific image. Upon successful upload completion, the user is prompted (172) to see if there is another image to upload and the sequence repeats itself until all images are successfully uploaded. The user has the option to proceed to the shared image area to construct an order from the shared images or disconnect (174) from network photoservice provider 60.

Turning now to Fig. 12, an event registration card 176 is shown for permitting the sharing of images from the shared image area of URL 12 with users who do not have access to remote electronic connections or the Internet 50. Event registration card 176 includes at least the address 180 of the network photoservice provider 60, first class metered postage 178, registrant address 182 to be filled out by the registrant, and barcode 20 which has encoded the URL12 and user ID 14. Event registration cards can be included in the pack 30 of transaction cards 10 to accommodate those event participants who don't have access to the Internet 50. Once the event registration card 176 is received by the network photoservice provider 60, the event participant will receive index prints 184 discussed further with respect to Fig. 13 using a method according to the description of Fig. 14.

In Fig. 13a, the front view of an index print 184 is shown for selecting images 214 with selection boxes 216 from an event associated with URL 12 and User ID 14 without the aid of a user workstation 70 connected to the network photoservice provider 60. The index print 184 is received in the mail by an event participant who has registered with the network photoservice provider 60 by mailing in the event registration card 176. Index print 184 includes an event title 186 that further includes any photographer information that is input at the time the specific event photographer connects to the URL 12 and makes his selections to share with the other event participants. A registered event participant receives index print 184, marks the selection boxes 216 indicating those which are desirable to print, and provides information in payment field 220. Furthermore, index print 184 has preprinted fold lines 212 which creates a mailing form shown

in Fig. 13b that includes prepaid return postage 188, the address 218 of the fulfillment center 76, the registrant address 182, and the bar code 20 which can be automatically read and fulfilled when returned to the fulfillment center 76.

Automatic fulfillment is a scanning process that identifies the marked selection

5 boxes 216 and the URL 12 and user ID 14 which connects the fulfillment center 76 to the network photoservice provider 60. Form scanning processes are well known in the art of order fulfillment with an example of such a technique being used by the BMG Music service to fulfill orders for tapes or compact discs.

Alternatively the indication of the images to be printed or other photoservices to
10 be provided can be communicated by telephone to the photoservice provider or fulfillment center and indicating the photoservices desired via voice or touchtone response to a recorded program. The marked index print may also be faxed to the photoservice provider or fulfillment center.

Turning to Fig. 14, a flow chart shows the steps of the method of
15 the network photoservice provider 60 in coordination with fulfillment center 76 soliciting print sales from event participants that do not have access to Internet 50. This is accomplished by the registration (190) of such event participants upon receiving the event registration card 176 at the network photoservice provider 60. The event participant's registration information is entered into a database in a
20 standard fashion with a relationship created to the event associated with URL 12. As film cartridges 24 or one time use cameras 26 that were used at the event are dropped off with photofinisher 34, they get scanned to URL 12 and user ID 14 as defined by the transaction card 10 of each participant. Once the participant has selected images to be shared, the system is triggered (192) to create a new index
25 print 184 and mail it (194) to the registered event participants without Internet 50 access. The index print 184 is mailed back (196) to the fulfillment center 76 which in coordination with the network photoservice provider 60 fulfills the order (198) from the images stored in the shared image area of URL 12.

As shown in Fig. 15, a package 200 of one time use cameras 26 is shown which
30 are preconfigured to a common URL 12 with a network photo service provider 60 according to the present invention. The bar code 20 which encodes the user ID 14 and URL 12 is printed on the outer package component of one time use camera

26. This arrangement provides an alternative effective arrangement to affixing the bar code 20 as a label.

Turning to Fig. 16, a tear off section 202 of the outer package component of the one time use camera 26 of Fig. 15 is shown. In this

5 arrangement, the tear off section 202 is kept by the customer as a receipt with the instructions to access his images at URL 12 and user ID 14 with password 22.

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram showing a system for practicing an alternative embodiment of the present invention. According to this embodiment, the magnetic stripe 28 discussed with reference to Fig. 3 is scanned by a magnetic
10 card reader 204. The URL 12 and user ID 14 are read from the magnetic stripe 28 and input into a retail terminal 206. The retail terminal 206 drives printer 208 to print an adhesive label 18 with a bar code 20 containing the URL 12 and the user ID 14. The label 18 is affixed to processing envelope 210 for receiving the film cartridge 24. Alternatively, printer 208 can print directly onto the processing
15 envelope 210.

Fig. 18 shows an alternative embodiment of a transaction card according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention having more than one removable adhesive label 18 on the card such that adhesive labels for more than one roll of film can be scanned to the same user ID 14 and password 22 at
20 URL 12. Such a transaction card 10 can be used by an individual user to store at a single location, images obtained from multiple rolls of film over a period of time.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.

SECRET 44-38861

PARTS LIST

10	transaction card
12	universal resource locator (URL)
14	user ID
16	instructions
18	adhesive label
20	bar code
22	password
24	film cartridge
26	one time use camera
28	magnetic stripe
30	package
32	display rack
34	photofinisher
36	film preparation station
38	film processor
40	film scanner
42	label scanner
44	computer
46	memory
48	web server
50	Internet
52	card manufacturer
54	database
56	web server
58	computer
60	network photoservice provider
62	web server
64	computer
66	customer database
68	image database
70	user workstation

72	web server
74	Internet service provider
76	fulfillment center
78	web server
80	job queue
82	digital output producer
84	prints
86	compact discs (CDs)
88	professional photo studio
90	studio workstation
92	professional film scanner
94	pro image database
96	purchase cards step
98	hand out cards step
100	register event host step
102	application step
104	drop off film step
106	pick up prints step
108	connect to network step
110	view others pictures step
112	order reprints step
114	associate twin check number step
116	attach twin check step
118	process film step
120	scan film step
122	link twin check to image files step
124	store image files and user ID step
126	transfer image files step
128	establish remote connection step
130	request Pro ID step
132	register Pro ID step
134	enter Pro ID step

136 enter event URL step
138 upload images step
140 disconnect from network step
142 establish remote connection step
144 request Pro ID step
146 register Pro ID step
148 enter Pro ID step
150 enter event URL step
152 enter pro image data base URL step
154 disconnect step
156 electronic camera
158 establish remote connection step
160 enter user ID and password step
162 prompt to see if images are available step
164 select camera model step
166 upload images step
168 begin upload process step
170 check for additional image step
172 check for additional image step
174 disconnect step
176 event registration card
178 first class metered postage
180 address
182 registrant address
184 index print
186 title
188 first class return postage
190 registration step
192 create new index print step
194 mailing step
196 return mail step
198 fulfill order step

200	package
202	tear off section
204	magnetic card reader
206	retail terminal
208	printer
210	photoprocessing envelope
212	fold line
214	images
216	selection boxes
218	address
220	payment field

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of storing and viewing a collection of digital images, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a plurality of users with a unique user ID associated with a URL identifying a network photoservice provider;
 - b) providing each one of the plurality of users with a separate password to the unique user ID;
 - c) at least one of the plurality of users transferring a set of digital images to the unique user ID employing their separate passwords; and
 - d) viewing the images located at the unique user ID using the separate password.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital images transferred to the unique user ID are relatively high resolution images and the images viewed are relatively low resolution images.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing a high resolution print from a digital image located at the unique user ID.
4. A transaction card for coordinating access to digital image files, comprising:
 - a) a support sheet upon which is printed a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, and a unique user ID; and
 - b) a magnetic stripe disposed thereon, the stripe having recorded thereon the URL, the unique user ID and the password.
5. The transaction card claimed in claim 4, wherein the support sheet further comprises instructions for use.
6. The transaction card claimed in claim 4, wherein the label further includes an encoded version of the password.

7. A transaction card for coordinating access to digital image files, comprising:

a) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID and a password in human readable form; and

b) a removable adhesive-backed label adapted to be adhered to a roll of film or one-time-use camera affixed to the support so as to obscure at least the password, the label bearing a machine readable URL identifying the network photoservice provider and the user ID.

8. The transaction card claimed in claim 7, wherein the label further includes an encoded version of the password.

9. The transaction card of claim 7 further comprising a magnetic stripe disposed thereon, the stripe having recorded thereon the URL, the unique user ID and the password.

10. A system for coordinating access to digital image files including:

a) a transaction card comprising:

1) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID in human readable form;

2) a magnetic stripe disposed thereon, the stripe having recorded thereon the URL, the unique user ID; and

b) a photofinishing card containing the password in human readable form to the unique user ID.

11. A system for coordinating access to digital image files including:

a) a transaction card comprising:

1) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID in human readable form;

2) a removable adhesive-backed label adapted to be adhered to a roll of film or one-time-use camera affixed to the support so as to obscure the user ID, the label bearing a machine readable file transfer protocol identifying the network photoservice provider and the user ID; and

b) a photofinishing card containing the password in human readable form to the unique user ID.

12. A kit containing a plurality of transaction cards, each of the transaction cards comprising:

a) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID, all of the transaction cards having the same user ID and a password, each of the passwords being different; and

b) a magnetic stripe disposed thereon, the stripe having recorded thereon the URL, the unique user ID and the password

13. A kit containing a plurality of transaction cards, each of the transaction cards comprising:

a) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID, all of the transaction cards having the same user ID and a password in human readable form, each of the passwords being different; and

b) a removable adhesive-backed label adapted to be adhered to a roll of film or one-time-use camera affixed to the support so as to obscure at least the password, the label bearing a machine readable file transfer protocol identifying the network photoservice provider and the user ID.

14. A method of permitting access by a pre-determined group of users to electronically stored images, comprising the steps of:

e) accessing the images uploaded to the network photoservice provider by any member of the pre-determined group of users holding a card from the related set of cards, access being obtained by the cardholder inputting the human readable password code associated with the particular cardholder's card.

a) providing each member of the group of users with a unique transaction card, selected from a related set of cards, each card in the related set further comprising:

ii) a removable label affixed to the support sheet having an adhesive backing, the label having a first machine readable URL code printed on it which is associated with the related set of cards and is unique to the particular card in the related set; and

b) removing the removable label from at least one unique card in the related set and affixing the label to an exposed roll of film or one-time use camera at the time of submission of the roll or camera for processing;

d) reading the unique machine readable URL code and uploading the stored images to the network photoservice provider identified by the URL;

f) designating by the particular user for access to all cardholders in the pre-determined group only those images selected by the particular cardholder for release; and

g) accessing by any user in the pre-determined group all stored images which have been designated for access by the other members of group, access being obtained by inputting the human readable password code associated with the particular cardholder's card.

a) providing at least one further user with the unique user ID; and

b) allowing the at least one further user to upload a set of digital images to the unique user ID.

17. The method claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one further user is a professional photographer, and further comprising the step of charging a royalty for use of the uploaded digital images.

18. The method claimed in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

a) providing at least one further user with the unique user ID; and

b) allowing the at least one further user to upload a set of digital images to the unique user ID.

19. The method claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one further user is a professional photographer, and further comprising the step of charging a royalty for printing the high resolution print.

20. A method of providing photofinishing services with respect to a collection of digital images ,comprising the steps of:

a) providing a plurality of users with a unique user ID associated with a URL identifying a network photoservice provider;

b) providing each one of the plurality of users with a separate password to the unique user ID;

c) at least one of the plurality of users transferring a set of digital images to the unique user ID employing their separate passwords;

d) allowing access to the images located at the unique user ID using the separate passwords; and

e) providing a choice of photofinishing services related to the images.

21. The method claimed in claim 20, wherein the photofinishing services include one or more services selected from the list of: prints, poster prints, t-shirts, CD's, floppy discs, album pages, greeting cards, digital file downloading, extended image storage, mugs, posting to a web page, postage stamps, masks, sticker prints, and trading cards.

22. A method of providing access to and photoservices relating to a collection of digital images stored on a data base at a photoservice provider or fulfillment center, comprising the steps of:

- a) registering a user through the use of a mail in card containing a preprinted URL and a user ID indicating the location on the network of the digital images;
- b) sending an index print containing a representation of the images stored on the data base to the registered user;
- c) indicating the images for which photoservices are desired; and
- d) providing the indicated photoservices.

23. The method claimed in claim 22, wherein the indication of the images is provided by marking on the index print, and returning the marked index print to the photoservice provider or fulfillment center.

24. The method claimed in claim 22, wherein the indication of the images is provided by telephoning the photoservice provider or fulfillment center and indicating the photoservices desired via voice or touchtone or facsimile.

25. A mail in card containing a preprinted URL and a user ID indicating the location on a network of a collection of digital images for registering a user for access to photoservices relating to the digital images.

26. A method for providing access to a collection of digital images from a sponsored event, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing, by a sponsor a transaction card to a plurality of users, having printed thereon a URL indicating the location of the collection of digital images on the Internet relating to a sponsored event;
- b) at least one of the plurality of users transferring a set of digital images to the URL; and
- c) viewing the images located at the URL.

27. The method claimed in claim 26 further comprising the step of providing a selection of photoservices relating to the images.

28. A transaction card for coordinating access to digital image files, comprising:

a) a support sheet upon which is printed instructions for use of the transaction card, a URL identifying a network photoservice provider, a unique user ID and a password in human readable form; and

b) a plurality of removable adhesive-backed labels adapted to be adhered to rolls of film or one-time-use cameras affixed to the support so as to obscure at least the password, the labels bearing a machine readable URL identifying the network photoservice provider and the user ID.

29. A method of permitting access by a pre-determined group of users to electronically stored images available via the Internet at a network photoservice provider, comprising the steps of:

a) providing each member of the group of users with a unique transaction card, selected from a related set of cards, each card in the related set further comprising:

i) a support sheet upon which are printed instructions for use of the transaction card;

ii) a removable label affixed to the support sheet having an adhesive backing, the label having a first machine readable URL code printed on it which is associated with the related set of cards and is unique to the particular card in the related set; and

iii) a second unique human readable password code printed on the support sheet and revealed only when the removable label is removed from the card, the human readable password code permitting access to the images associated with the roll of film or camera when the password is input to a computer connected to the network photoservice provider via the Internet; and

b) removing the removable label from at least one unique card in the related set and affixing the label to an exposed roll of film or one-time use camera at the time of submission of the roll or camera for processing;

c) processing the film or one-time use camera and electronically scanning and storing the images produced;

d) reading the unique machine readable URL code and uploading the stored images to the network photoservice provider identified by the URL;

e) accessing the first time by a particular user only the stored images associated with that user's unique card, access being obtained by inputting the human readable password code associated with the particular user's card;

f) designating by the particular user for access to all cardholders in the pre-determined group only those images selected by the particular cardholder for release;

g) accessing by any user in the pre-determined group all stored images which have been designated for access by the other members of group, access being obtained by inputting the human readable password code associated with the particular cardholder's card; and

h) in the event that a user fails to designate images for access to all card holders within a predetermined period of time, granting access to all images stored by the user to all cardholders.

30. An index print for selecting fulfillment from a collection of digital images said index print including a preprinted URL and a user ID indicating the location on a network of a collection of digital images.

31. The index print of claim 30 further comprising means for providing information in a payment field.

32. The index print of claim 30 further comprising a second side which includes a mailing address, a return address, an encodement of a unique identifier, and appropriate postage.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of storing and viewing a collection of digital images includes the steps of: providing a plurality of users with a unique user ID associated with a URL identifying a network photoservice provider; providing
5 each one of the plurality of users with a separate password to the unique user ID; at least one of the plurality of users transferring a set of digital images to the unique user ID employing their separate passwords; and viewing the images located at the unique user ID using the separate password.

Fig. 1

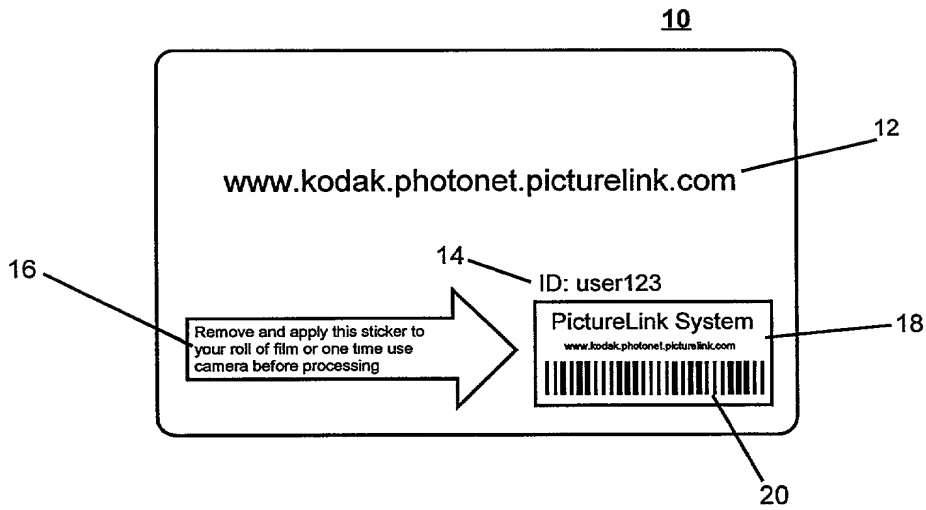


Fig. 2

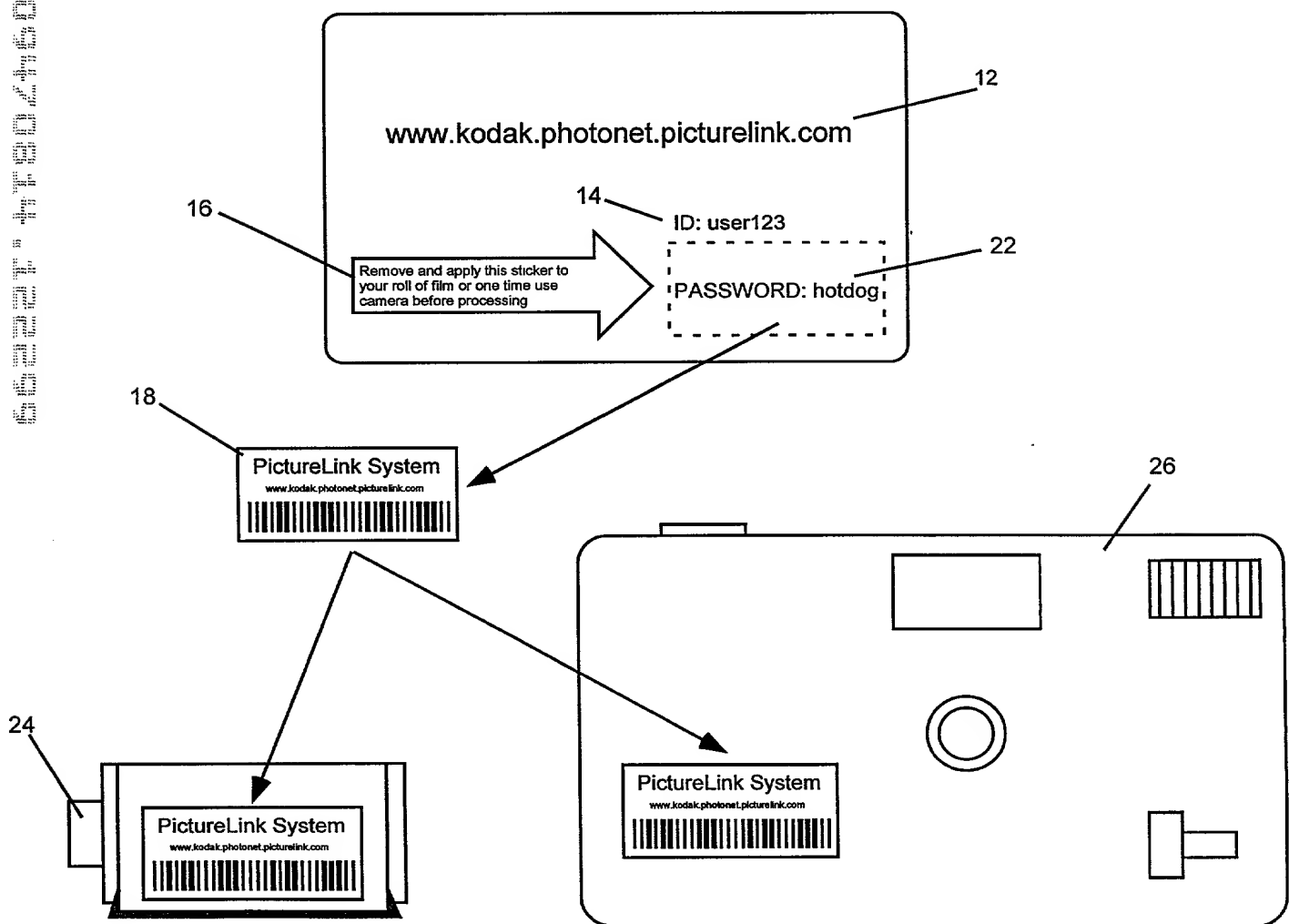


Fig. 3

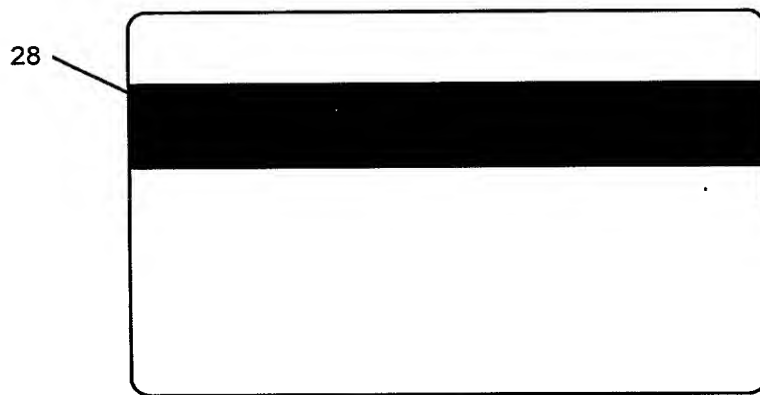
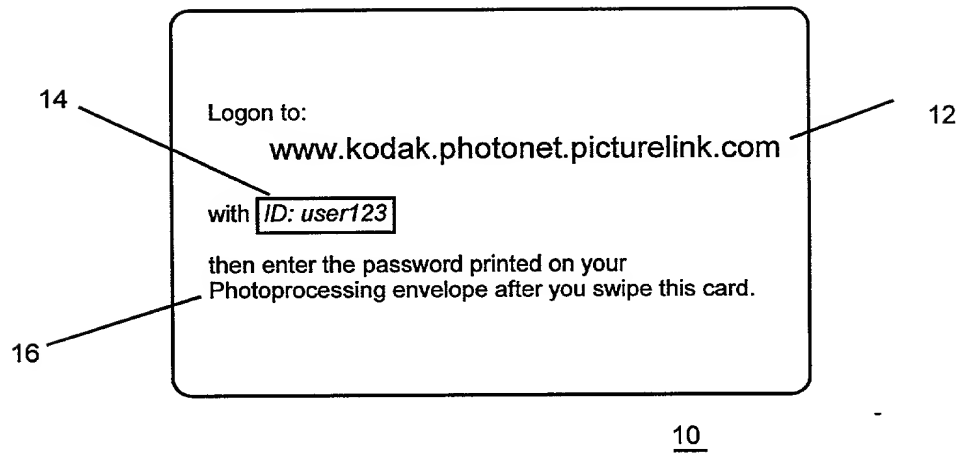


Fig. 4

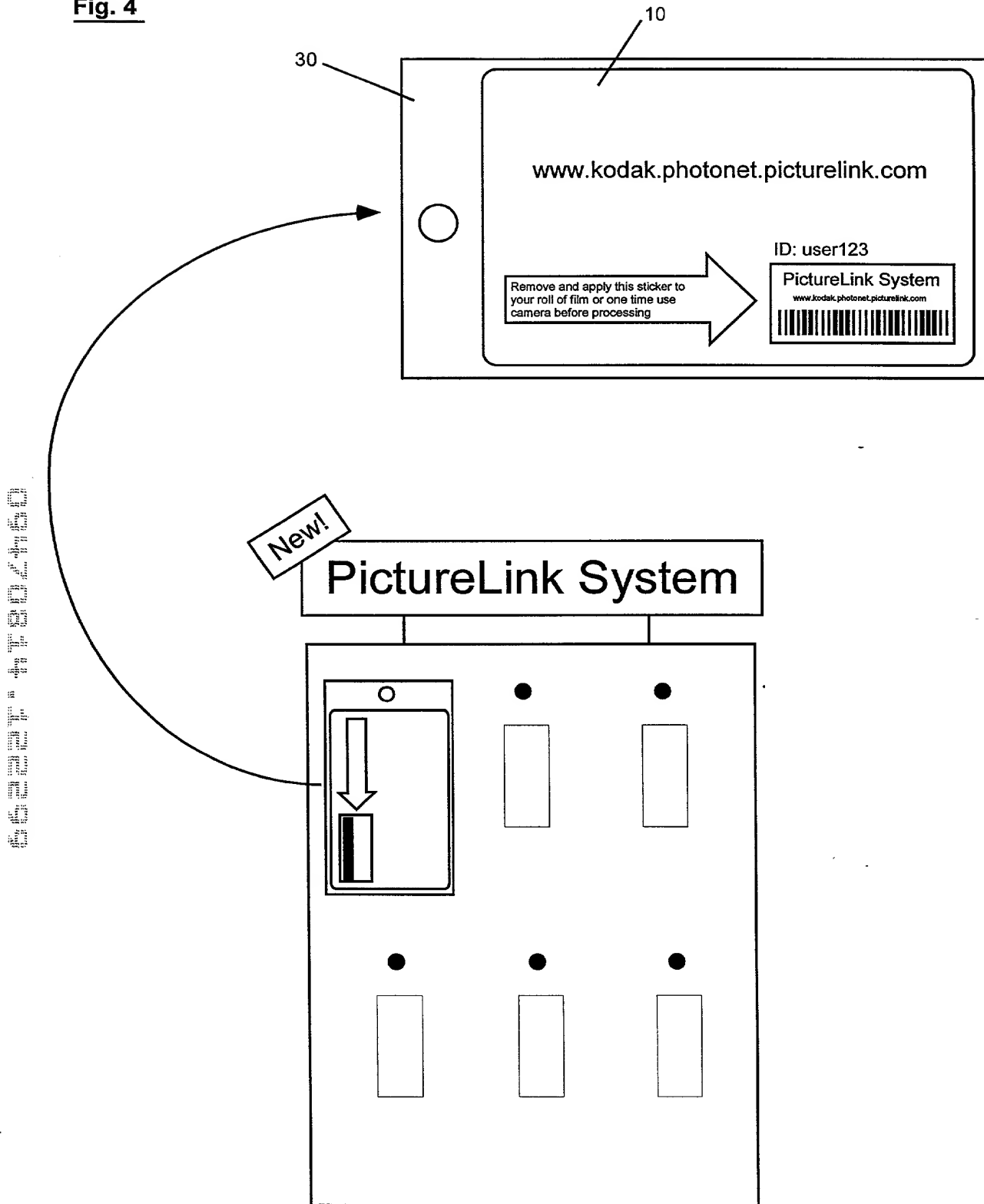


Fig. 5

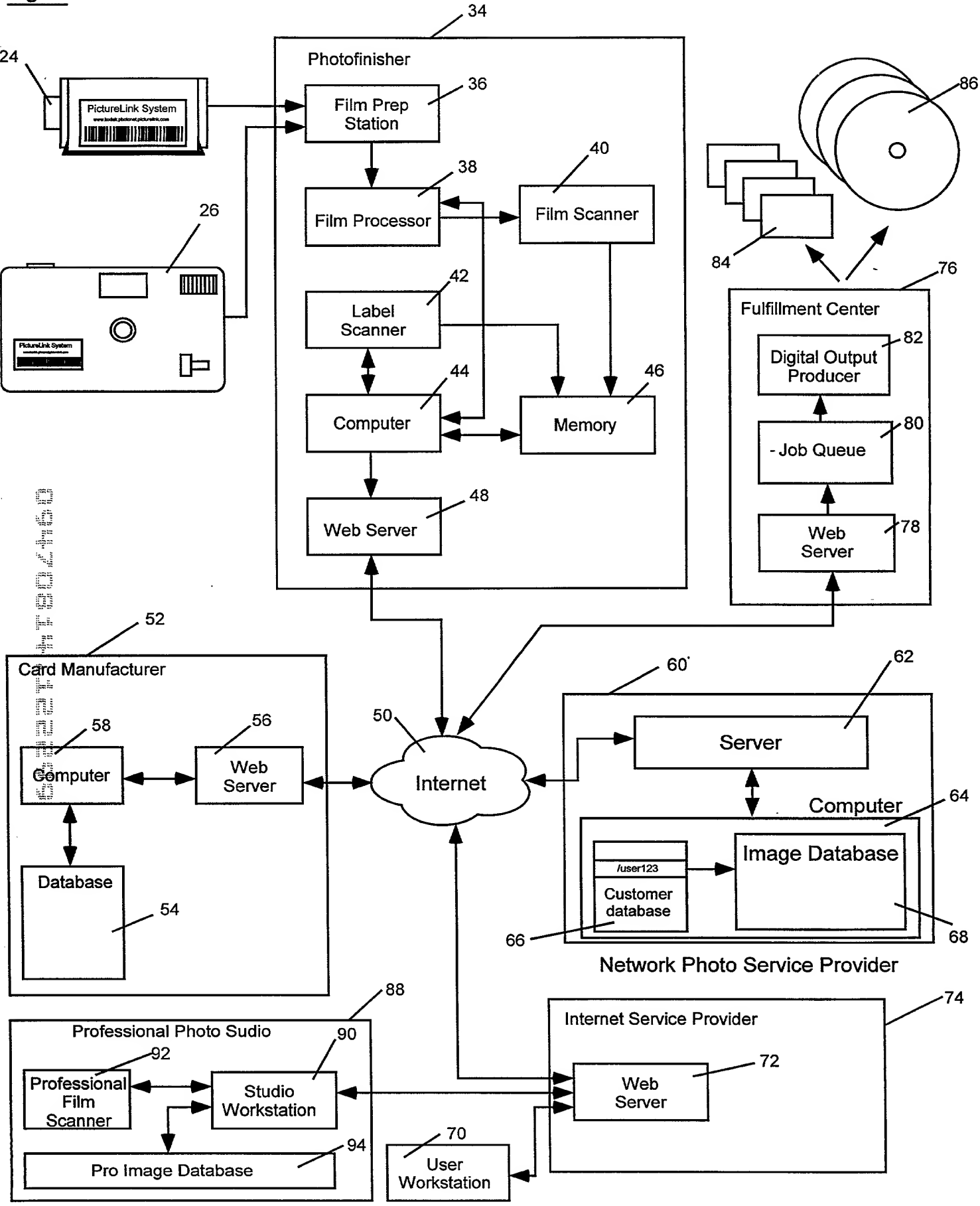


Fig. 6a

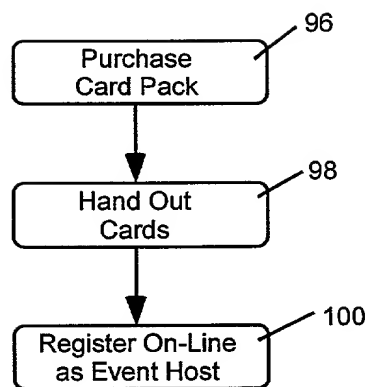


Fig. 6b

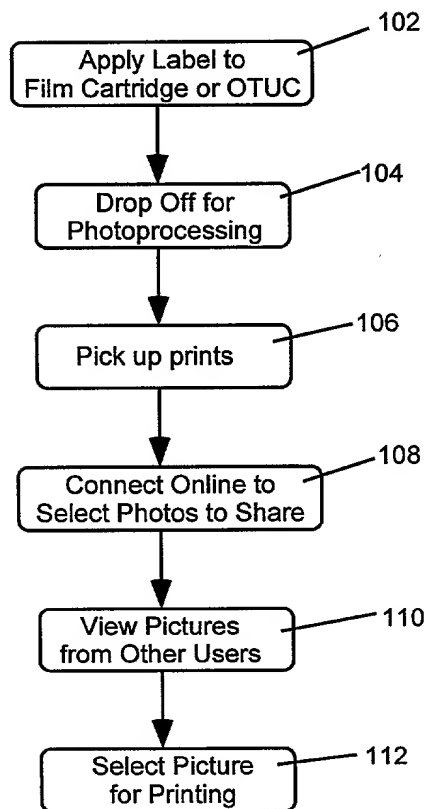


Fig. 7

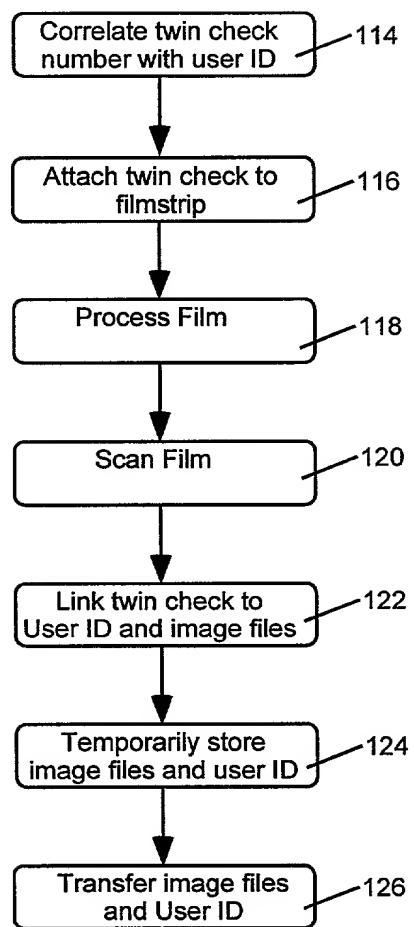


Fig. 8

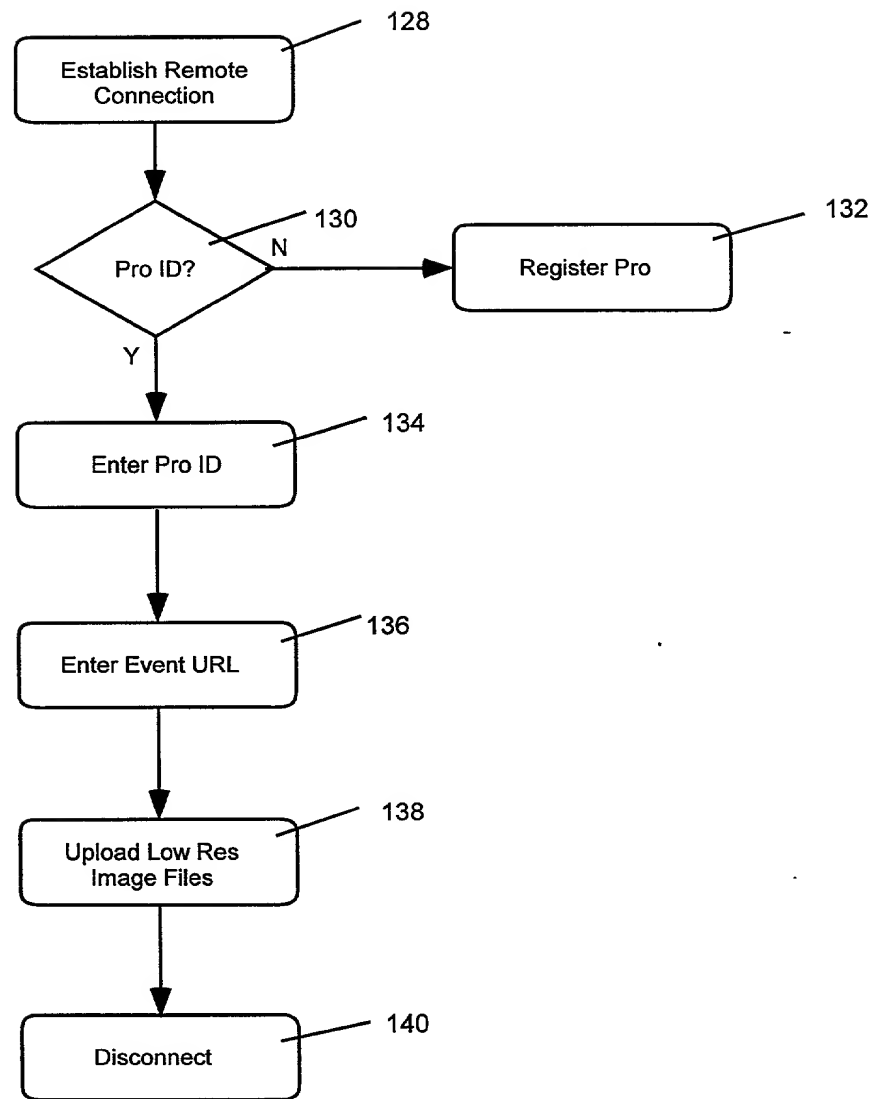


Fig. 9

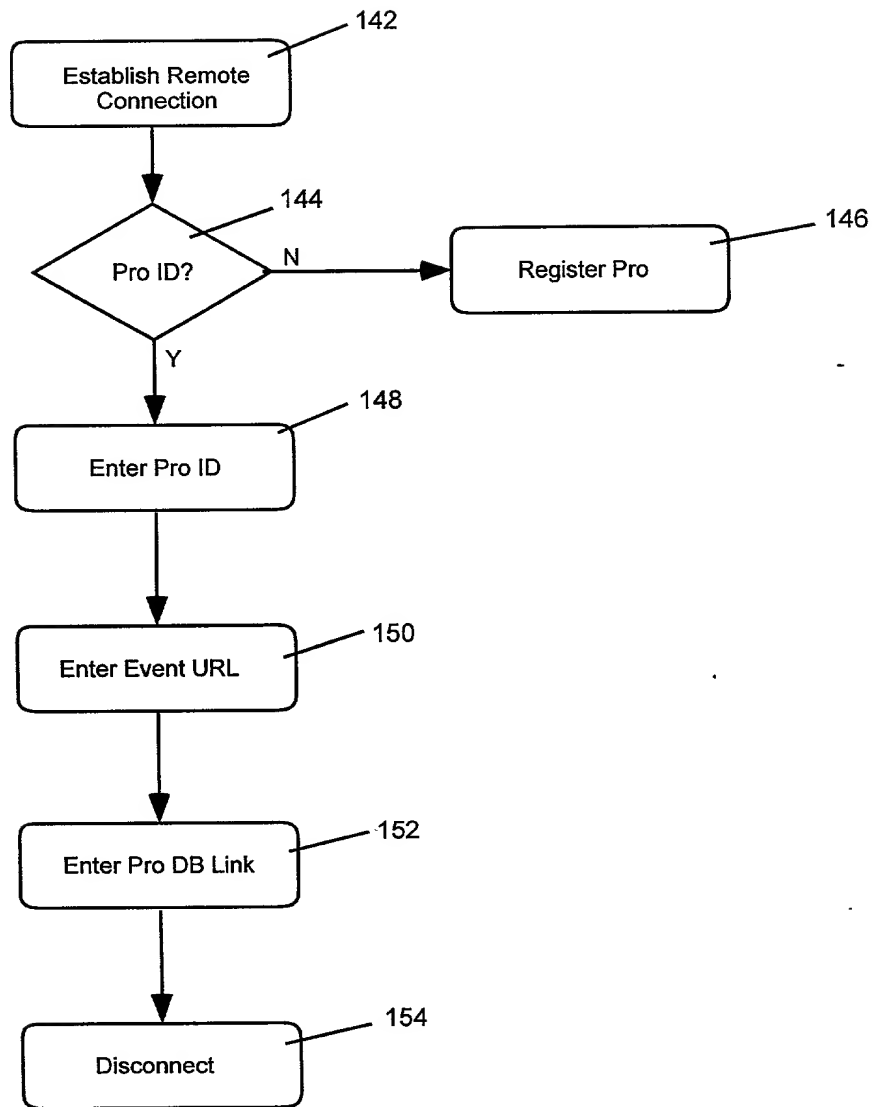


Fig. 10

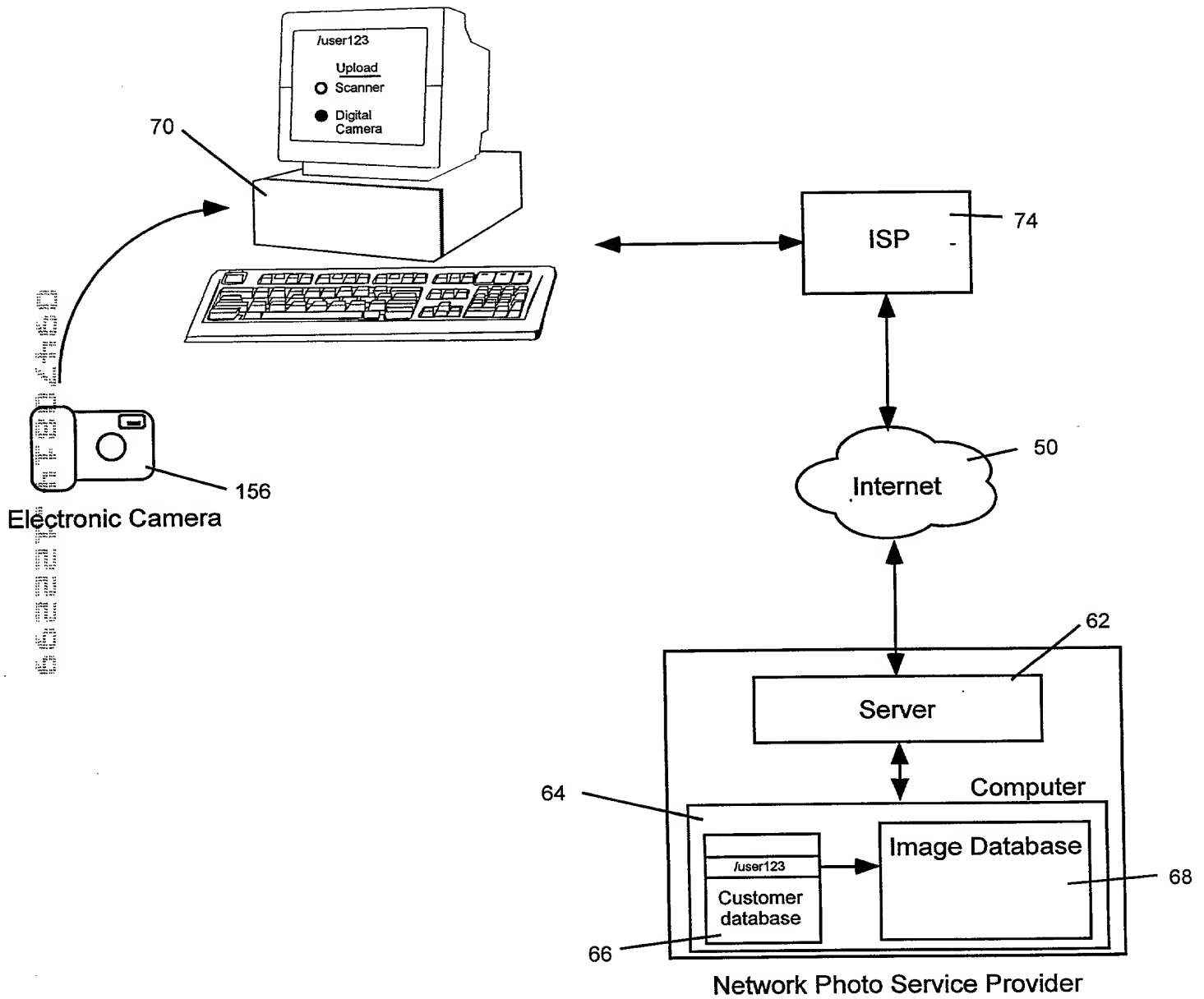


Fig. 11

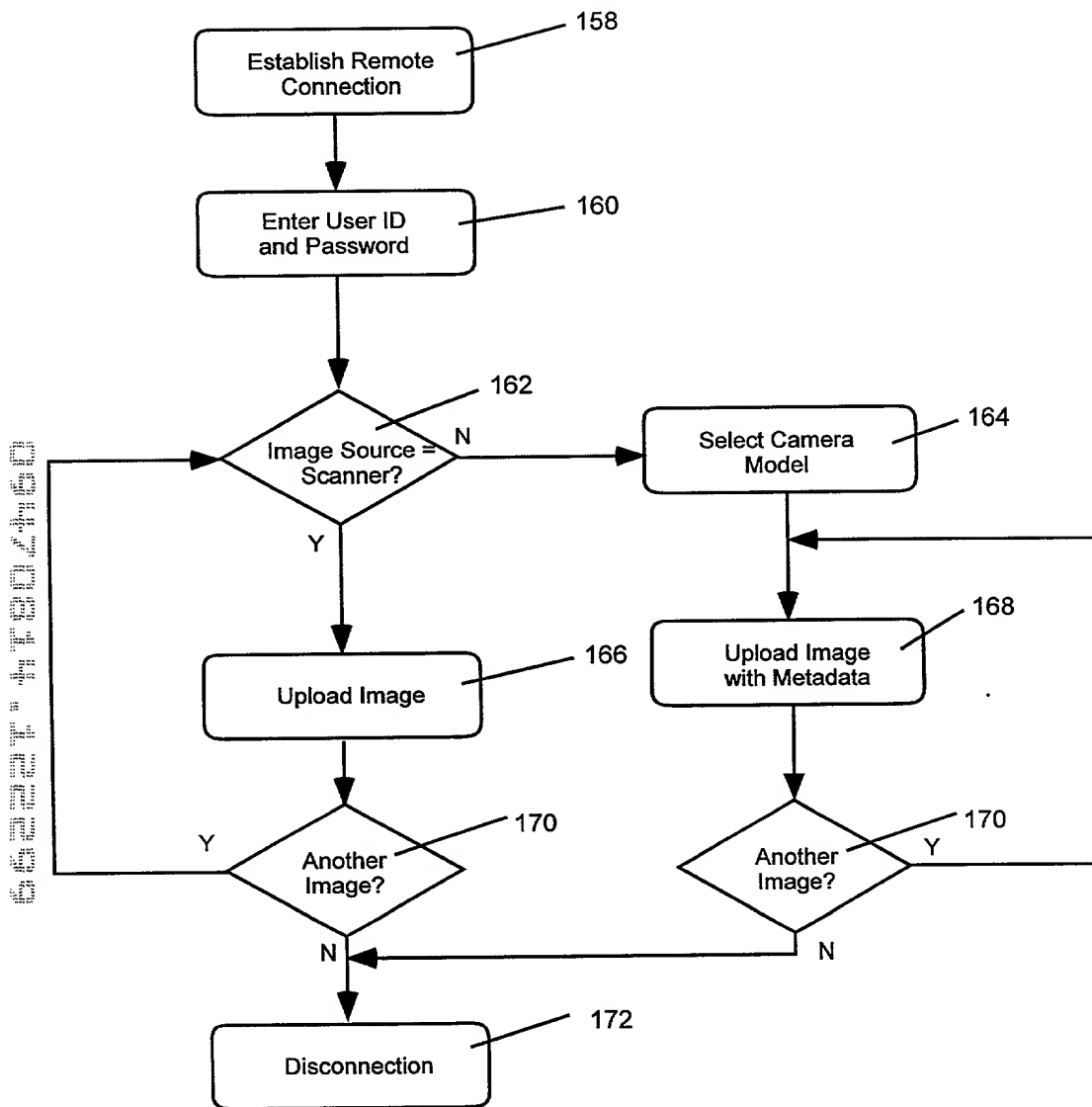


Fig. 12

180

178

182

20

176

Network Photoservice Provider
1234 Pixel Lane
Rockville, MD 01234

First
Class
Paid

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip


Control Number: 

Fig. 12 is a schematic diagram of a mail piece, such as a postage stamp or a postage meter printout. The mail piece is rectangular and divided into two main sections by a vertical dashed line. The left section (180) contains the return address and a control number with a barcode. The right section (176) contains the postage meter printout. The return address (182) is located in the top left corner and includes the name 'Network Photoservice Provider', the street address '1234 Pixel Lane', and the city, state, and zip code 'Rockville, MD 01234'. The postage meter printout (178) is located in the top right corner and includes the text 'First Class Paid'. The control number (20) is located in the bottom left corner and is represented by a barcode. The postage meter printout (176) is located in the bottom right corner and is represented by a series of horizontal lines.

Fig. 13a

[illegible]

Fig. 13b

Fig. 13b

Signature _____ 220

188 First Class Paid

182 John Doe
123 My Street
Anywhere, NY 12345

180 Network Photoservice Provider
1234 Pixel Lane
Rockville, MD 01234


Control Number:  20

Fig. 14

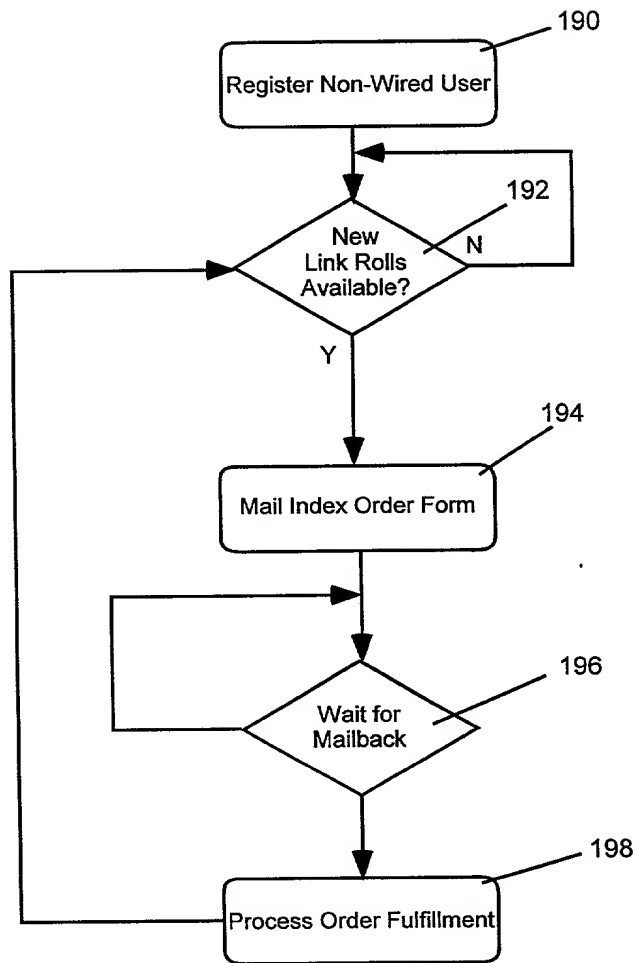


Fig. 15

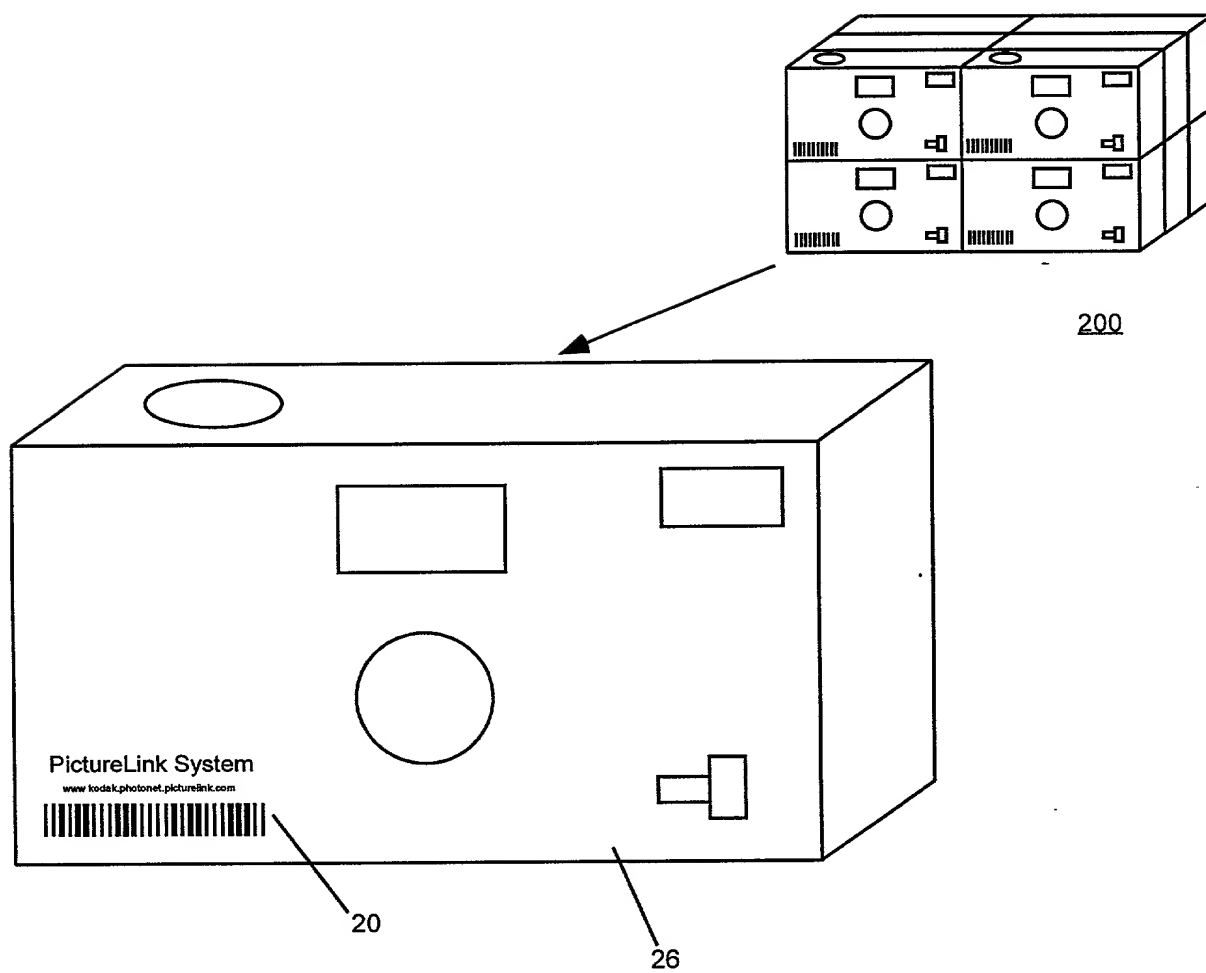


Fig. 16

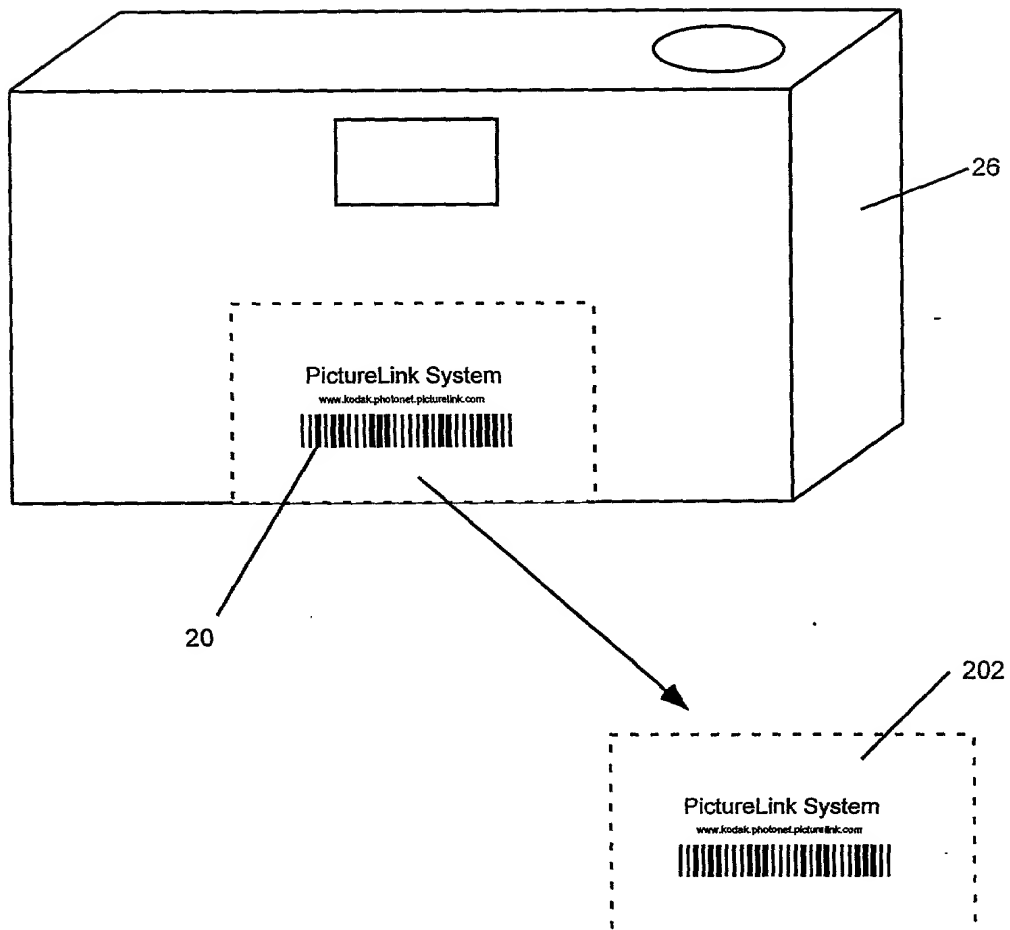


Fig. 17

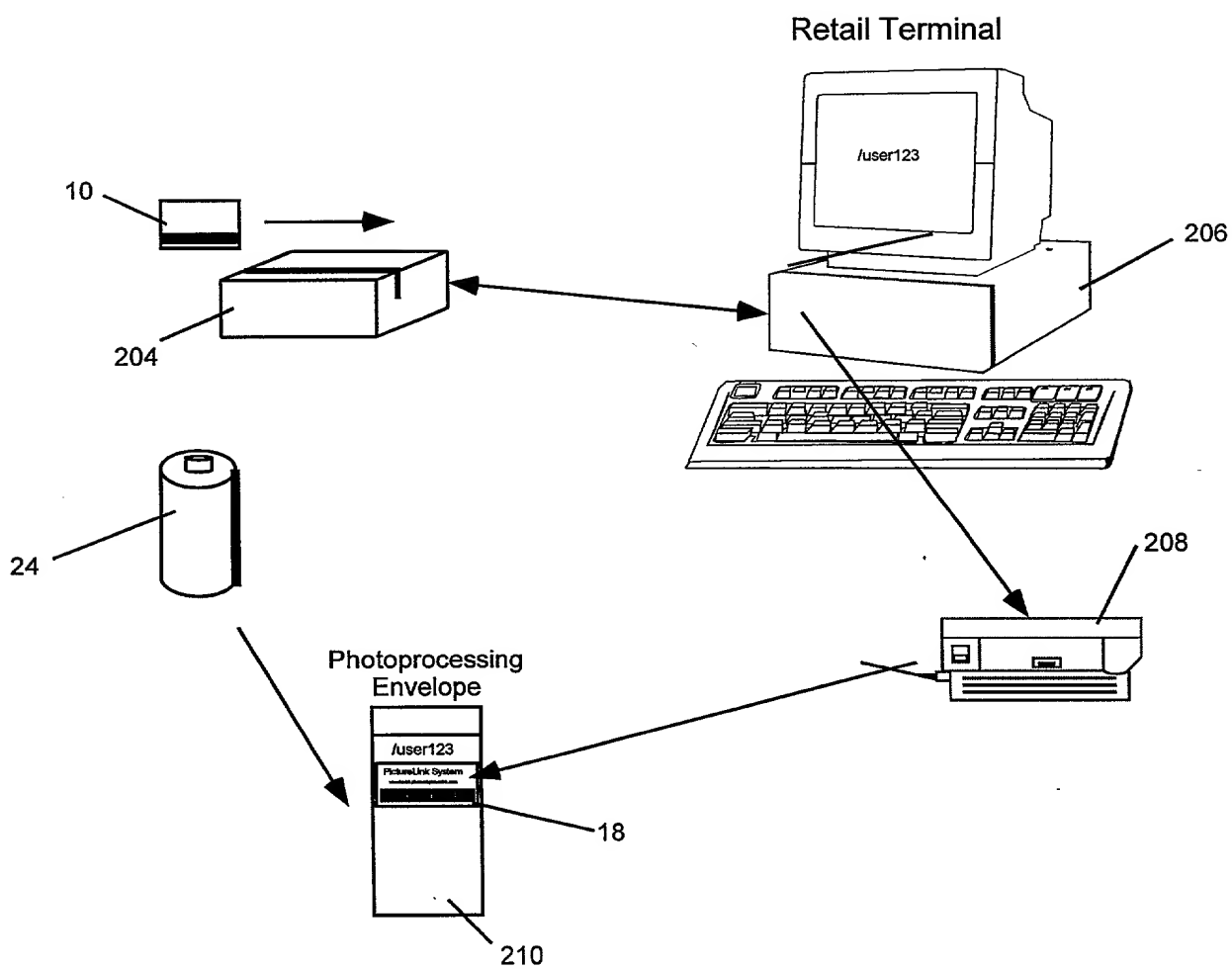
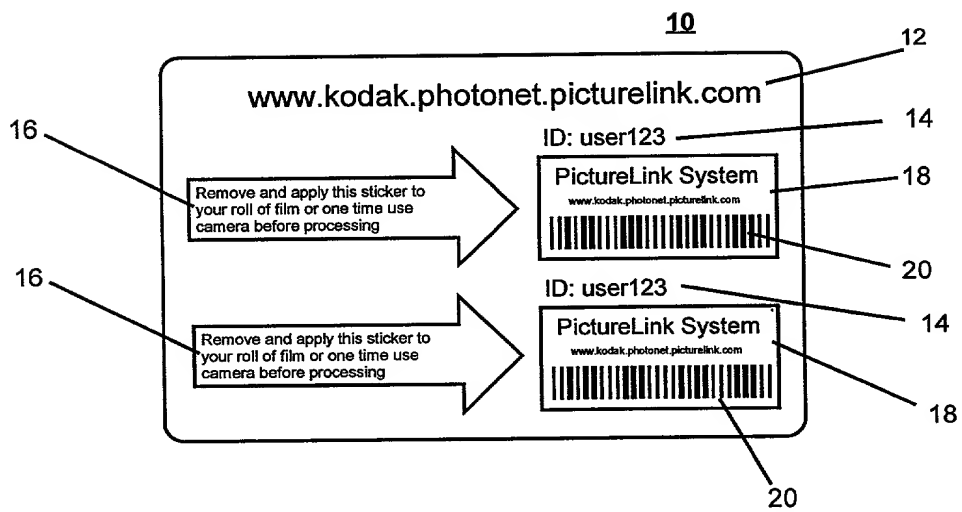


Fig. 18



Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney

ATTORNEY DOCKET
80353THC

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD OF PERMITTING GROUP ACCESS TO ELECTRONICALLY STORED IMAGES
AND TRANSACTION CARD USED IN THE METHOD**

The specification of which (check only one item below):

☒ is attached hereto.☐ was filed as United States Application Serial No. on and
was amended on (if applicable).☐ was filed as PCT international application Number on and was amended under PCT Article 19 on (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating a least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day month year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC §119			
				YES		NO
				YES		NO
				YES		NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 119 §(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PRIOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119 (e):

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any prior United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior applications(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR US APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35USC§120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (Check one)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.				
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)		

Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney (Continued)				ATTORNEY DOCKET 80353THC
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (<i>List name and registration number</i>)				
Thomas H. Close, Registration No. 27,428 J. Lanny Tucker, Registration No. 27,678 Sarah Meeks Roberts, Registration No. 33,447 Milton S. Sales, Registration No. 24,516				
Send Correspondence to: Thomas H. Close Eastman Kodak Company Patent Legal Staff Rochester, NY 14650-2201				Direct Telephone Calls to: <i>(name and telephone number)</i> Thomas H. Close (716) 722-2396 FAX: (716) 477-4646
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
1	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
		McIntyre	Dale	F.
		Honeoye Falls	New York 14472 USA	USA
		Eastman Kodak Company	343 State Street, Rochester	New York 14650 USA
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
2	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
		Manico	Joseph	A.
		Rochester	New York 14618 USA	USA
		Eastman Kodak Company	343 State Street, Rochester	New York 14650 USA
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
3	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
		Cooper	Andrew	T.
		Fairport	New York 14450 USA	USA
		Eastman Kodak Company	343 State Street, Rochester	New York 14650 USA
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
4	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
5	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
6	BUSINESS ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE (COUNTRY)
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.				
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
DATE		DATE		DATE
12-21-99		12/21/99		12/21/99
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
DATE		DATE		DATE